

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 07348 131511Z
ACTION EUR-12

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 7348

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, PROP, XH, RO
SUBJECT: SPTAMINA RESUMES ITS RFE ATTACKS

1. AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS OF BENIGN NEGLECT, RFE HAS
ONCE AGAIN BECOME THE TARGET OF SPTAMINA'S EDITOR-
IN-CHIEF, EUGEN BARBU. FOR FOUR WEEKS RUNNING BARBU
HAS TURNED HIS SARCASTIC AND BITTER COMMENTARY ON RFE
BROADCAST OF INTERVIEW WITH DISSIDENT WRITER VIRGIL
TANASE (SPTAMINA, NOVEMBER 19), ROMANIAN
HEAD NOEL BERNARD'S CRITICISM OF PATRIOTIC POET ION
LILA (SPTAMINA, NOVEMBER 26), RFE EDITORS EMIL
GEORGESCU AND MAX BANUS (SPTIMINA, DECEMBER 3) AND
VIRGIL IERUNCA'S NEGATIVE COMMENTS ON ROMANIA NEW
FESTIVAL, "HYMN OF ROMANIA" (SPTIMINA, DECEMBER 10).
IN TYPICAL FASHION BARBU ENDS LAST ARTICLE BY
REFERRING TO "THE SEWER" (GURA DE CANAL) "WHICH CALLS
ITSELF RFE." WE ASSUME THAT THESE ARTICLES WERE ALSO
BROADCAST OVER BARBU'S RADIO BUCHAREST PROGRAM AS
THEY HAVE BEEN IN PAST.

2. FLACARA (DECEMBER 2) ALSO JOINS FRAY IN CONTEXT
OF ANTI-EMIGRATION ARTICLE RECALLING THE TRIALS AND
TRIBULATIONS OF A ROMANIAN WHO EMIGRATED TO GERMANY
AND THEN TO CANADA BEFORE HE SAW LIGHT AND RETURNED.
ARTICLE CRITICIZES "MONSTEROUS PROPAGANDA" PUT OUT BY
RFE WHICH DEPICTS "WITH ROSE-COLORED GLASSES" A WORLD
WHICH "PLAYS WITH THE FATE OF MAN ON A BROKEN ROULETTE
WHEEL."

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3. COMMENT: WE REMAIN SOMEWHAT MYSTIFIED AS TO THE
MOTIVATIONS FOR BARBU'S ARTICLES SINCE THEY WOULD SEEM
TO ATTRACT EVEN MORE LISTENERS TO RFE. A POSSIBLE
EXPLANATION MAY BE THAT HE IS USING THEM TO BOOST HIS
SUPPORT FOR A RUMORED BID FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE
WRITERS' UNION, WHOSE ELECTIONS ARE DUE TO BE HELD
SHORTLY.

BARNES

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NNN

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